

Protecting and securing public lands and space for outdoor recreation is crucial for the future success of the American economy and the environment.

Outdoor recreational activities contribute significantly to the physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellness of individuals.

Federal lands contribute significantly to the preservation of nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities.

Federal recreation resources generate vast amounts of economic enterprise from tourist activity, recreation visitors, and the increased property value and business attraction gained from natural amenities.

The preservation and growth of the Outdoor Recreation Industry depends on the informed decision of lawmakers, and the Outdoor REC Act of 2016 will be pivotal in providing this vital information.

For these reasons I support H.R. 4665 the "Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contribution Act of 2016."

IN HONOR OF MARTIN ELLIS

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Navy Veteran Martin Ellis for his achievements, contributions, and service in the United States Navy onboard the USS *Green*.

Martin Ellis resides in Cherry Hill, New Jersey where he remains committed to his community. His selfless and brave actions in World War II are reason enough to honor him, yet Mr. Ellis has demonstrated a lifetime of love for his nation. He is very passionate about The United States and his patriotic duty to this country. He takes his past service in the Navy very seriously, along with being a serious Phillies fan.

Those who decide to serve in our nation's Armed Forces are amongst the most heroic in our nation and serve as an example as leaders, in not only securing our safety but putting their life on the line for our freedom.

Mister Speaker, Martin Ellis, is a great American whose dedication to serving our country in the United States Navy is an inspiration to his community. I join with his family, friends, and all of New Jersey in honoring the selfless service of this extraordinary man.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois on their 20th Anniversary.

In 1995, Tracy Baim of Lambda Publications and Kevin Boyer of Communications Management, Inc. saw a need for a local chamber of commerce dedicated to gay and lesbian owned businesses. Joined by three other business owners, they launched the Chicago Area

Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Their goal was to have 30 Members by the first organizational meeting in March 1996.

By the time that meeting was called to order, the Chamber had grown to include more than 80 businesses.

Today the Chamber serves a roster of over 300 Members, a number that increases almost daily. These members are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) business owners, as well as gay-supportive businesses. Together they employ over 2,000 people in the Chicago area, with gross revenues that exceed \$200 million. Its mission is to promote economic opportunities for the LGBT community in the state of Illinois by being an advocate and resource for all member businesses that encourage equality.

The LGBT Chamber is very proud of the progress it has made as an organization over the past 20 years, and this past year in particular. Its partnership with SCORE, launched in February 2016, is the first of its kind in the nation, which gives their members access to the collective wisdom and guidance of many business leaders. SCORE is the premier source of free, confidential business education and mentoring. Its ongoing collaboration with the Small Business Administration helps bring the resources of the SBA to the Chambers members. These partnerships, along with their vital and popular networking opportunities, LGBT Business Enterprise Certification, and other educational programs, serve to strengthen its member businesses.

Along with the 20th Anniversary Gala, the LGBT Chamber has major initiatives in progress that are designed to help LGBT businesses flourish. In this anniversary year, the biggest initiative is to create the LGBT Business Foundation of Illinois, a foundation that focuses on advocacy, promotion and education for small business owners and their employees to grow and prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. I am honored to have such an exceptional organization in my district.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND IN RECOGNITION OF LATIN JAZZ MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER EDDIE PALMIERI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month to join the community of El Barrio, The Village of Harlem, the City and State of New York, and the Nation in commemorating an outstanding Latin Jazz musician and composer, Mr. Eddie Palmieri. Eddie has spent his entire life arranging exquisite salsa and Latin jazz music while preserving the historic Afro-Caribbean contributions to the music world.

Eddie was born December 15, 1936 in New York, NY to Puerto Rican immigrants. It was in his childhood home where he was first exposed to Latin music. His grandmother was a singer, his uncles were guitarists and his brother, Charlie Palmieri, attended the Julliard

School for Music. When Eddie was only five years old, he started entering and winning talent competitions with Charlie. At an early age, he began to play the piano and at 13, he joined his uncle's orchestra, playing timbales. Eddie felt inspired to practice and perform publicly when he began watching his brother, Charlie, who was nine years older, play with talented musicians. He also started hearing the music Charlie played at home, where he was exposed to and influenced by the music of jazz greats such as Thelonius Monk, Bud Powell, Bill Evans and McCoy Tyner.

Eddie's professional career as a pianist began when he joined various bands in the early 1950s including Eddie Forrester, Johnny Segui's, and the popular Tito Rodriguez Orchestra. In 1961, Eddie formed his own band, La Perfecta, which featured an unconventional front line of trombones rather than the trumpets, customary in Latin orchestras. This innovative sound that mixed American jazz into Afro-Caribbean rhythms, surprised critics and fans alike. Even though Eddie disbanded La Perfecta in 1968 to pursue different musical endeavors, he would return to the band's music in the 2000s.

In the 1970s, Eddie perfected his arranging skills and released several impressive recordings that reflected his inventive musical technique. His unconventional style would once again surprise critics and fans with the 1970 release entitled "Harlem River Drive." This recording was the first to merge what was categorized as "Black" and "Latin" music into a free-form sound that encompassed elements of salsa, funk, soul and jazz. In 1975, Eddie won the first-ever Grammy for Best Latin Recording for "The Sun of Latin Music."

As a result of Eddie's penchant for producing music in the funk Latin style, Little Louie Vega invited him to record on Nuyorican Soul (1997), a release that became very popular in the house and underground music scenes. In 2000, the successful musician announced that he was leaving the world of music. But before his retirement, he released "Masterpiece" (2000) with Tito Puente. The album won two Grammys and Palmieri earned the "Outstanding Producer of the Year" award from the National Foundation of Popular Culture. Eddie was awarded the Chubb Fellowship by Yale University in 2002 for developing communities through music. That award is usually reserved for international heads of state.

In 2005, Eddie also reached another landmark achievement when he became the first Latino host of a radio show on National Public Radio. The radio show "Caliente" which explores the intimate connections between American and Latin jazz was broadcasted by more than 160 radio stations nationwide. Throughout Eddie's outstanding musical career, he has been lauded with many accolades including numerous Grammy Awards, a Eubie Blake Award in 1991, and a Harlem Renaissance Award in 2005. He has also been inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame, the Chicago Walk of Fame and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. Eddie has been recognized as an American icon by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., where two recordings of his performances are archived.

Eddie Palmieri won yet another Grammy in 2006 for his album "Listen Here!" and in 2007, he received his most recent Grammy award